Dursley Terrace Kent
1st June 1844

My dear friend.

I am too much out of health to write anything — the few reflections I have penned — are not worth the trouble of reading — I feel inclined to give them up — What I have written about different subjects dividing the attention I have offered from want of knowledge of the state of things in America Park your excuse — here we find it difficult when we have any point to carry to unite if even we differ on many points if the great object is viewed in the same light — I feel deeply interested in all proceedings tho' the time is very different to that pursued here — but there is not the need — In my dear family I feel much interest I have a dear sister who was mostly from her birth under my care who 2 years ago was left a widow with one dear little Girl of her own and one 11 years old — the child of a dear friend of hers who was her Husbands pet Wife — are now in Paris and happy abroad. She is to be was given [illegible] to arrive

53

her, from the deep sense of her loss & useless sorrowing — She does educate them but this is not enough for one has a fine mind capable of more It is cause of gratulation that Thou has found me thy sorrows the heart consoling love of the dear departed & yes this faith can rejoice in the precious knowledge that the beloved Lord he did also delight my love this unknown attends thee and thy dear children and that they may where we are withdrawn from usefulness be stepped to the poor & needy is the fervent wish of thy friend E Sturge

My dear Mother
Wonts unites in kind regards &
My dear Thomas wishes you all good

in many cases Ancestral property —
Stolen property! — legitimatized, and
that by the State — Unholy Sanction
Oh! may we live to see the day when
repentant of this evil — the
Legislature may declare that
it is a violation of the rights of
Man, to hold any one in Bondage
and that henceforth no Man
Woman or Child, Black Coloured or
White can be the property of every one
another — for his birthright
freedom — In every Land — and
most especially so — in a Land
such as America, whose declaration
of Freedom & Independance is
the boast of the United States —

Esther Stuge

England
Darnley Terrace nr Gravesend
Kent

1st (August) 8th month 1844

Thomas Parks Sister
lived near my
dear Parents at
Croydon Surrey
& delighted to
[illegible]

and success and courage

E. Sturge
8th mo 1844.

"Woman in our hour of ease
How coy, how difficult to please
In pain & sickness age & love
A ministering angel thou"
Sir Walter Scott

That this is alike the nature of Woman in all States and times there is ample record - the remains of her angelic nature - hear Mungo or Mungo Park the Englishman who endued with the true love of country and much talent, in the year 1795 or about that time travelling in Africa with a knowledge of five or more of the native languages, in search of the sources of some of those great Rivers, and a great desire to witness all his country men or behalf of those suffering sons of that part of this great Universe Let us hear what he says of our

lovely Black Sisters - One Day after having passed over with much difficulty the burning Sands and through tangled Forests for a long time seeking for refreshment in every spot from wild fruits or anything & finding none weary and dejected he came suddenly about nightfall upon a Negro Village hesitating to go forward, he sat him down beneath a tree - and had not long remained there before he saw three Young Women fine Black Negresses come out to grind some kind of seed or Corn Soon they looked with curious eye upon the White Stranger, but did not approach him - at length they went into their Hut or what appeared a Mud walled Court & soon coming out again with two other young Women began again to grind their Corn between Stones and at last down to Song and oh how sweetly and touchingly it

sounded in the ears of the Indian White Man
for he understood the plaintive Ditty
the Dark Lays translated it will
stand thus - The only gives the clothes
The White man eat him does
Beneath our Feet
No Wife! No Mother. No Sister. has the
this evening Maid of Oude to share,
the supper corn for him prepare.
They ceased and retired - looking earnestly
at him as they departed, this anxiety was
great the dampness and heavy dews of the
Asia he felt quite uncertain of what might
befall him when he left the contrast to
our European, & I fear now American feelings
instead of being Lords leading their slaves
captives to toil, to work, to groan, in bitter
bondage - they returne bringing him a
bowl of sweet milk and a Cake of Corn
meal - and when he had overwhelmed with
the deepest feeling of gratitude and broken
off the remaining buttons from his
Linen shirt & presented it to them, and
which they received with feelings of delight
he ventured to ask for shelter this was
kindly granted for him nor would these Poor
Ig. Men & Women part with the White
Man

although the very colour of his skin is hateful to them, from the dread they entertain of the cruelty which so many of our own white race, have practiced towards them, so that all that is bad they attribute to a white man, and well they may!) part with the meanest way worn tale utters & refreshed they put him on his way loaded with kindness —

Hear this & let it sink deeply into the heart of every female in America, let every mother teach her Sons & Daughters the "Law of Kindness" 'tis the glory of woman to be first in all acts of humanity & feeling — and us less a duty for every man to help to set the oppressed Free, to help to shake off the stain from his country — that can never rise to great eminence in the estimation of all nations while she boasts of her freedom — and holds at the same moment two millions of her fellow men in bondage thousands of whom are treated worse than beasts of burden Husbands torn from their Wives children from Parents all humanity outraged — & the every Law of God despised and upon what claim that they are